Deities of Death

A Visual Compendium of Death Personified

Volume Two

By J. Martin Strangeweather

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All requests should be sent to:
jmartinstrangeweather@gmail.com

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Contents

Deities of Death

Enmesharra 12
Ugur 13
Inanna 14
Dumuzid 15
Geshtinanna 16
Aker 17
Nehebkau 18
Imsety 19
Happy 20
Duamutef 21
Qebehsenuef 22
Libitina 23
Dea Tacita 24
Laverna 25
Viduus 26
Nenia Dea 27
Februus 28
Lemures 29
Manannán mac Lir 30
Ankou 31
Nicnevin 32
The Rozhanitsy 33
Giltinė 34
Kalma 35
Houri 36
Huur 37
Allani 38
Barastyr 39
Aminon 40
Chamunda 41
Setesuyara 42
Batara Kala 43
Datsue-ba 44
Keneō 45
Yewá 46
Gede Nibo 47

Nana Buluku 48
Torngarsuk 49
Pinga 50
Pana 51
Aipaloovik 52
Kamohoali‘i 53
Whiro-te-tipua 54
Magwayen 55
Ta’xet 56
Tia 57
Erio 58
Alexandra 59
San La Muerte 60
San Pascualito 61

Devils and Demons

Beelzebub 63
Glasya-Labolas 64
Belphegor 65
Mammon 66
Moloch 67
Dis Pater 68
The Iron City of Dis 69
Titivillus 70
Furfur 71
Abaddon 72
Belial 73
Asmodeus 74
Pandemonium 75
Lilith 76
Naamah 77
Kamaria 78
Agrat bat Mahlat 79
Karma Sutra 80
Meridiana 81
Belili 82
Eisheth Zenunim 83
Vassago 84

Leviathan 85
Aamon 86
Geryon 87
Bathym 88
Shax 89
Forneus 90
Zepar 91
Kimaris 92
Zaebos 93
Andromalius 94
Furcas 95
Leraje 96
Malthus 97
Flauros 98
Raum 99
Vapula 100
Sabnock 101
Gaap 102
Ziminiar 103
Amaymon 104
Corson 105
Astaroth 106
Mephistopheles 107
Hell Hound 108
Hell Hound 109
Spectral Hell Hound 110
Spectral Hell Hound 111
Hell Cat 112
Grimble the Imp 113
Hwargle the Imp 114
Jook the Imp 115
Yeenoghu 116
The Warlord of Yeenoghu 117
Orcus 118
Demogorgon 119
Pazuzu 120
Anthraxus 121
Malphas 122
Paimon 123

Zuggtmoy 124
Juiblex 125
Morax 126
Kostchtchie 127
Lolth 128
Gremory 129
The Desert of Bones 130
Bune 131
Vepar 132
Baal 133
Baphomet 134
Samael 135
Satan 136

Angels

Heaven 138
Raphael 139
Gabriel 140
Michael 141
Cassiel 142
Metatron 143
Jophiel 144
Abraxus 145
Sophia 146
Philotes 147
Anael 148
Haniel 149
Lailah 150
Ananchel 151
Muriel 152
Hadraniel 153
Puriel 154
Sarathiel 155
Haziel 156
Ariel 157
Arariel 158
Baltiel 159
Remiel 160
Sealtiel 161
Zadkiel 162

Zagagel 163
Shamsiel 164
Raguel 165
Zaphkiel 166
Sariel 167
Jegudiel 168
Uriel 169
Moroni 170
The Christkind 171
The Christkind 172
The Swan Maiden 173
Indrani 174
Ushas 175
Messenger of the Sun Goddess 176
Yù Huánghòu ("Jade Queen") the Tennyo 177
Hépíng Méiguī ("Rose of Peace") the Tennyo 178
Jīnsè De Xīyáng ("Golden Sunset") the Tennyo 179
Sora No Hi ("Fire in the Sky") the Kirin 180
Hisui No Kaminari ("Jade Thunder") the Kirin 181
Fubuki ("Snow Storm") the Kirin 182
Seigi No Honō (“Flame of Justice”) the Kirin 183
Garlorin the Wise 184
Tryllian the Silver Dragon 185
Subete No Hito Ni Tomi O (“Wealth For Everyone”) the Gold Dragon 186
Dobiel 187
Erulgar 188
Gruzus 189
Eldrigan the Just 190
Koremera 191
The Destroying Angel 192
Ophanim 193
Seraphim 194

Saviors

Zoroaster (Zarathustra) the Founder of Zoroastrianism 196
Abraham 197
Moses Parting the Red Sea 198
The Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin 199
The Virgin Mary 200
Jesus Christ Walking On Water 201

The Crucifixion of Jesus Christ 202
The Harrowing of Jesus Christ 203
The Resurrection of Jesus Christ 204
Mary Magdalene and the Holy Grail 205
Siddhartha Gautama, the Shakyamuni Buddha 206
Siddhartha Gautama, the Shakyamuni Buddha 207
Buddha and Ananda 208
Budai the Laughing Buddha of China 209
Amitābha Buddha of the Pure Lands 210
Bhaiṣajyaguru Buddha 211
Maitreya the Future Buddha 212
Lao Tzu Writing the Tao Te Ching, the Foundational Text of Taoism 213
Confucius the Founder of Confucianism 214
Vishnu ("All-Pervasive") the Hindu God of Compassion 215
Ganesh the Remover of Obstacles 216
Krishna and Putana 217
Prajnaparamita the Mother of All Buddhas 218
Avalokiteshvara the Bodhisattva of Compassion 219
Kuan Yin the Bodhisattva of Mercy 220
Tara the Bodhisattva of Wisdom and Kindness 221
Âu Cơ the Mother of Vietnamese Civilization 222
Selu the Corn Mother 223
Grandmother Moon 224
Guru Nanak the Founder of Sikhism 225
Joseph Smith the Founder of Mormonism 226
The Báb, Founder of Bábism, the Precursor to the Bahá'í Faith 227
Bahá'u'lláh the Founder of the Bahá'í Faith 228
Maria Lionza the Modern-Era Venezuelan Goddess of Love and Nature 229
Saint Germain the Ascended Master 230
L. Ron Hubbard the Founder of Scientology 231
Elvis Presley 232
**Out of respect for the Islamic faith, the Prophet Muhammad has not been depicted.*

Poetica Mortis

Meditation on Death 234
You Still Have 14,537 Bowel Movements to Go Before You're Done Here 236
The Deities We Birth 238

Due to the inclusion of devils and angels and historical saviors, the full title of this book should be *Deities of Death, Damnation, and Life Everlasting*, but I stuck with the original for the sake of consistency. As with the first volume, I strove to channel the spirits in the section on the deities of death faithfully, remaining true to their specific iconographies and histories. I allowed myself more freedom of interpretation in the sections on devils and angels, as the attributes and appearances associated with their names vary greatly from source to source. For the section on saviors, I resumed portraying the subjects with extreme diligence, which proved tricky in a few cases. Some Christians believe Jesus Christ is white, while others believe he is brown, and still others believe he is black. Although history and geography point to one of these beliefs as having more credence, this compendium acknowledges that different communities portray Jesus in a manner aligned with their own cultural and spiritual perspectives.

DEITIES OF DEATH

VOLUME 2

Deities of Death

Enmesharra the Mesopotamian God of the Setting Sun and the Underworld

Ugur the Mesopotamian God of War and Death

Inanna (or Ishtar) the Queen of Heaven,
Sumerian Goddess of Love, War, Fertility, and the Underworld

Dumuzid (or Tammuz) the Sumerian God of Shepherds, Fertility, Agriculture, and (unwillingly) the Underworld

Geshtinanna the Sumerian Goddess of Dreams,
Chief Scribe of the Underworld
(Sister of Dumuzid)

Aker the Egyptian God of the Horizon and the Underworld

Nehebkau the Egyptian God of Snakes and the Afterlife

Imsety the Egyptian God of Mummification,
Protector of the Liver,
One of the Four Sons of Horus

Hapy the Egyptian God of Mummification,
Protector of the Lungs,
One of the Four Sons of Horus

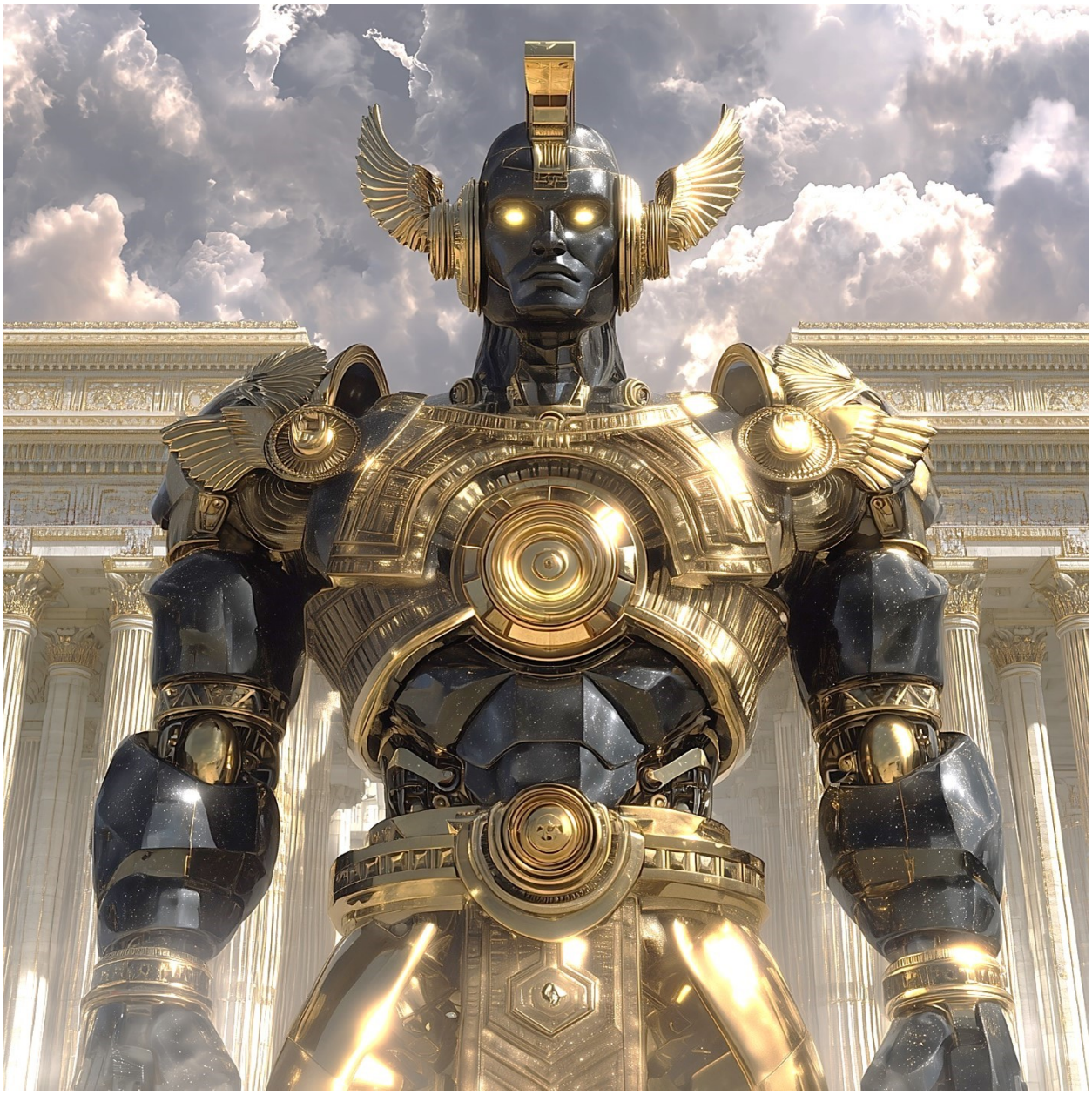
Duamutef the Egyptian God of Mummification,
Protector of the Stomach,
One of the Four Sons of Horus

Qebehsenuef the Egyptian God of Mummification,
Protector of the Intestines,
One of the Four Sons of Horus

Libitina the Roman Goddess of Funerals and Burials

Dea Tacita ("The Silent Goddess") the Roman Goddess of the Dead

Laverna the Roman Goddess of Thievery, Darkness, and the Underworld



Viduus the Roman God Who Separates the Soul from the Body Upon Death

Nenia Dea the Roman Goddess of Lamentation and Funeral Dirges

Februus the Roman God of Purification, Wealth, and the Underworld

Lemures, or Larvae
(malevolent spirits of the dead in Roman mythology)

Manannán mac Lir the Celtic God of the Sea,
King of the Otherworld

Ankou the Servant of Death in Celtic Mythology

Nicnevin the Scottish Goddess of Witches, Ghosts, and Malevolent Fairies,
Queen of the Unseelie Court of Alba in the Otherworldly Realm of Elphame (Fairyland)

The Rozhanitsy, Slavic Goddesses of Fate

Giltinė the Goddess of Death in Lithuanian Mythology

Kalma the Finnish Personification of Death, Decay, and the Grave

Nur Alsabah (“Morning Light”) the Houri of Jannah the Muslim Paradise

Huur the Messenger of Death in Somali Mythology

Allani the Goddess of Fate and the Queen of the Underworld in Hurrian Mythology

Barastyr the Ruler of Zanat the Underworld in Ossetian Mythology

Aminon the Gatekeeper of the Ossetian Underworld

Chamunda the Hindu Goddess of Death and Destruction

Setesuyara the Balinese Goddess of the Underworld

Batara Kala the Balinese God of Death

Datsue-ba (“Old Woman Who Takes Clothes”)
the Oni (Ogress) of the Japanese Underworld

Keneō (“Old Man Who Hangs Clothes”) the Oni (Ogre) of the Japanese Underworld

Yewá (or Ewa) the Orisha of Chastity, Death, and Cemeteries in Yoruba Religion

Gede Nibo the lwa Ruler of the Dead in Haitian Vodou

Nana Buluku the Goddess of Life, Death, and Rebirth in West African Vodou

Torngarsuk the Inuit God of Hunting and Death,
Ruler of Adlivun the Underworld

Pinga the Inuit Goddess of Hunting and Medicine,
Guide to Adlivun the Underworld

Pana the Inuit Goddess of Death and Rebirth

Aipaloovik the Inuit God of the Sea, Death, and Destruction

Kamohoali‘i the King of Sharks in Hawaiian Mythology

Whiro-te-tipua the Māori Personification of Evil and Darkness,
Lord of Taiwhetuki (“the House of Death”)

Magwayen the Goddess of the Sea,
Guide to Sulad the Visayan Underworld

Ta’xet the Haida Spirit of Violent Death

Tia the Haida Spirit of Peaceful Death

Erio (or Herio) the Basque Personification of Death

Alexandra the Queen of the Vampires

San La Muerte the South American Personification of Death

San Pascualito the King of the Graveyard in Guatemala

Devils and Demons

Beelzebub (“Lord of the Flies”) the Archdevil of Envy,
King of the First Circle of Hell

Glasya-Labolas the Archdevil of Lust,
Queen of the Second Circle of Hell

Belphegor the Archdevil of Gluttony,
King of the Third Circle of Hell

Mammon the Archdevil of Greed,
King of the Fourth Circle of Hell

Moloch the Archdevil of Unholy Sacrifice
King of the Fifth Circle of Hell

Dis Pater (“Rich Patriarch”) the Archdevil Ruler of the Iron City of Dis,
King of the Sixth Circle of Hell

The Iron City of Dis

Titivillus the Archdevil Duke of Dis

Furfur the Archdevil Warden of the Iron City of Dis

Abaddon the Archdevil of Sloth,
King of the Seventh Circle of Hell

Belial (“Father of Lies”) the Archdevil of Deceit,
King of the Eighth Circle of Hell (Malebolge)

Asmodeus the Archdevil of Treachery,
King of the Ninth Circle of Hell

Pandemonium the Capital of Hell
(The Tower of Babel Revisited)

Lilith the First Woman and the Queen of the Nine Hells

Naamah the Succubus

Kamaria the Succubus

Agrat bat Mahlat the Succubus

Karma Sutra the Succubus

Meridiana the Succubus

Belili the Succubus

Eisheth Zenunim the Archdevil Princess of Hell

Vassago the Archdevil Prince of Hell

Leviathan

Aamon the Archdevil of Lust and Violence

Geryon the Archdevil of Fraud

Bathym (or Bathin) the Archdevil Warlord,
Duke of the Fifth Circle of Hell

Shax the Malebranche,
Marquis of the Eighth Circle of Hell (Malebolge)

Forneus the Pit Fiend,
Marquis of the Ninth Circle of Hell

Zepar the Pit Fiend,
Duchess of the Ninth Circle of Hell

Kimaris the Pit Fiend,
Marquess of the Ninth Circle of Hell

Zaebos the Pit Fiend,
Grand Count of the Ninth Circle of Hell

Andromalius the Pit Fiend,
Earl of the Ninth Circle of Hell

Furcas the Hell Knight

Leraje the Hell Knight

Malthus the Pit Fiend,
Earl of the Ninth Circle of Hell

Flauros the Pit Fiend,
Duke of the Ninth Circle of Hell

Raum the Pit Fiend,
Warden of the Ninth Circle of Hell

Vapula the Pit Fiend,
Duchess of Cocytus

Sabnock the Pit Fiend,
Marquis of Cocytus

Gaap the Overseer of the Southern Region of Hell

Ziminiar the Overseer of the Northern Region of Hell

Amaymon the Overseer of the Eastern Region of Hell

Corson the Overseer of the Western Region of Hell

Astaroth the Exiled Duke of the Eighth Circle of Hell

Mephistopheles (from the play "Faust" by Goethe)

Hell Hound

Hell Hound

Spectral Hell Hound

Spectral Hell Hound

Hell Cat

Grimble the Imp

Hwargle the Imp

Jook the Imp

Yeenoghu the Demon Lord of Battle

The Warlord of Yeenoghu

Orcus the Demon Lord of the Undead

Demogorgon the Demon Lord of the Deep

Pazuzu the Demon Lord of Abyssal Skies

Anthraxus the Demon Lord of Disease

Malphas the Demon Lord

Paimon the Demon Lord of Mysteries

Zuggtmoy the Demon Mother of Fungi

Juiblex the Demon Lord of Slime and Oozing Things

Morax the Abyssal Minotaur

Kostchtchie the Demon Lord of the Frozen Wastes

Lolth the Demon Mother of Spiders

Gremory the Demon Queen of the Desert of Bones

The Desert of Bones

Bune the Demon Lord of Graves

Vepar the Demon Mother of Abyssal Seas

Baal the Demon King

Baphomet the Ancient Spirit of Dark Wisdom

Samael the Serpent (also called Samael the Tempter)

Satan the Adversary

Angels

Heaven

Raphael (“the Healing of God”) the Archangel of Healing

Gabriel (“the Strength of God”) the Archangel, Messenger of God

Michael the Archangel, General of the Heavenly Host

Cassiel (“the Speed of God”) the Archangel of Wrath and Ruin

Metatron the Celestial Scribe

Jophiel (“the Beauty of God”) the Archangel of Wisdom and Understanding

Abraxus (“Great Archon”) the Watcher

Sophia the Embodiment of Wisdom

Philotes the Angelic Spirit of Friendship, Love, and Eroticism

Anael the Archangel of Love and Compassion

Haniel (“God’s Joy”) the Archangel of Grace

Lailah the Angel of Conception, Sorrow, and the Night

Ananchel (“God’s Grace”) the Archangel of Liberation

Muriel the Guardian Angel of Travelers

Hadraniel (“God’s Majesty”) Gatekeeper of the Second Heavenly Gate

Puriel the Examiner of Souls

Sarathiel the Archangel of Discipline and Penance

Haziel (“Vision of God”) the Demon Bane

Ariel the Archangel of Nature

Arariel the Archangel of Oceans, Rivers, and Lakes

Baltiel the Archangel of Reconciliation

Remiel (“the Thunder of God”) the Archangel of Visions and Prophetic Dreams,
Ruler of the First Kingdom of the Seven Heavens

Sealtiel (“the Prayer of God”) the Defender,
Ruler of the Second Kingdom of the Seven Heavens

Zadkiel (“God is my Righteousness”) the Archangel of Benevolence,
Ruler of the Third Kingdom of the Seven Heavens

Zagagel the Archangel of Wisdom and Valor,
Ruler of the Fourth Kingdom of the Seven Heavens

Shamsiel (“God is my Sun”) the Archangel,
Ruler of the Fifth Kingdom of the Seven Heavens

Raguel (“the Shepherd of God”) the Archangel of Justice,
Ruler of the Sixth Kingdom of the Seven Heavens

Zaphkiel (“Beholder of God”) the Archangel of Secrets and Mysteries,
Ruler of the Seventh Kingdom of the Seven Heavens

Sariel (“the Command of God”) the Archangel of Judgment

Jegudiel (“God is One”) the Archangel of Mercy

Uriel (“the Flame of God”) the Archangel Guardian of the Gates to Eden

Moroni the Angelic Herald of the Second Coming

The Christkind, or Christkindl

The Christkind, or Christkindl

The Swan Maiden

Indrani the Hindu Queen of the Devas

Ushas the Vedic Goddess of Dawn

Messenger of the Sun Goddess

Yù Huánghòu ("Jade Queen") the Tennyo ("Heavenly Woman")

Hépíng Méiguī ("Rose of Peace") the Tennyo ("Heavenly Woman")

Jīnsè De Xīyáng ("Golden Sunset") the Tennyo ("Heavenly Woman")

Sora No Hi ("Fire in the Sky") the Kirin

Hisui No Kaminari ("Jade Thunder") the Kirin

Fubuki ("Snow Storm") the Kirin

Seigi No Honō (“Flame of Justice”) the Kirin

Garlorin the Wise,
the Celestial Sphinx,
Guardian of the First Kingdom of the Seven Heavens

Tryllian the Silver Dragon,
Guardian of the Second Kingdom of the Seven Heavens

Subete No Hito Ni Tomi O (“Wealth For Everyone”) the Gold Dragon,
Guardian of the Third Kingdom of the Seven Heavens

Dobiel the Guardian of the Fourth Kingdom of the Seven Heavens

Erulgar the Guardian of the Fifth Kingdom of the Seven Heavens

Gruzus the Guardian of the Sixth Kingdom of the Seven Heavens

Eldrigan the Just,
Guardian of the Seventh Kingdom of the Seven Heavens

Koremera the Celestial Bookkeeper

The Destroying Angel

Ophanim

Seraphim

Saviors

Zoroaster (Zarathustra) the Founder of Zoroastrianism

Abraham

Moses Parting the Red Sea

The Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin

The Virgin Mary

Jesus Christ Walking On Water

The Crucifixion of Jesus Christ

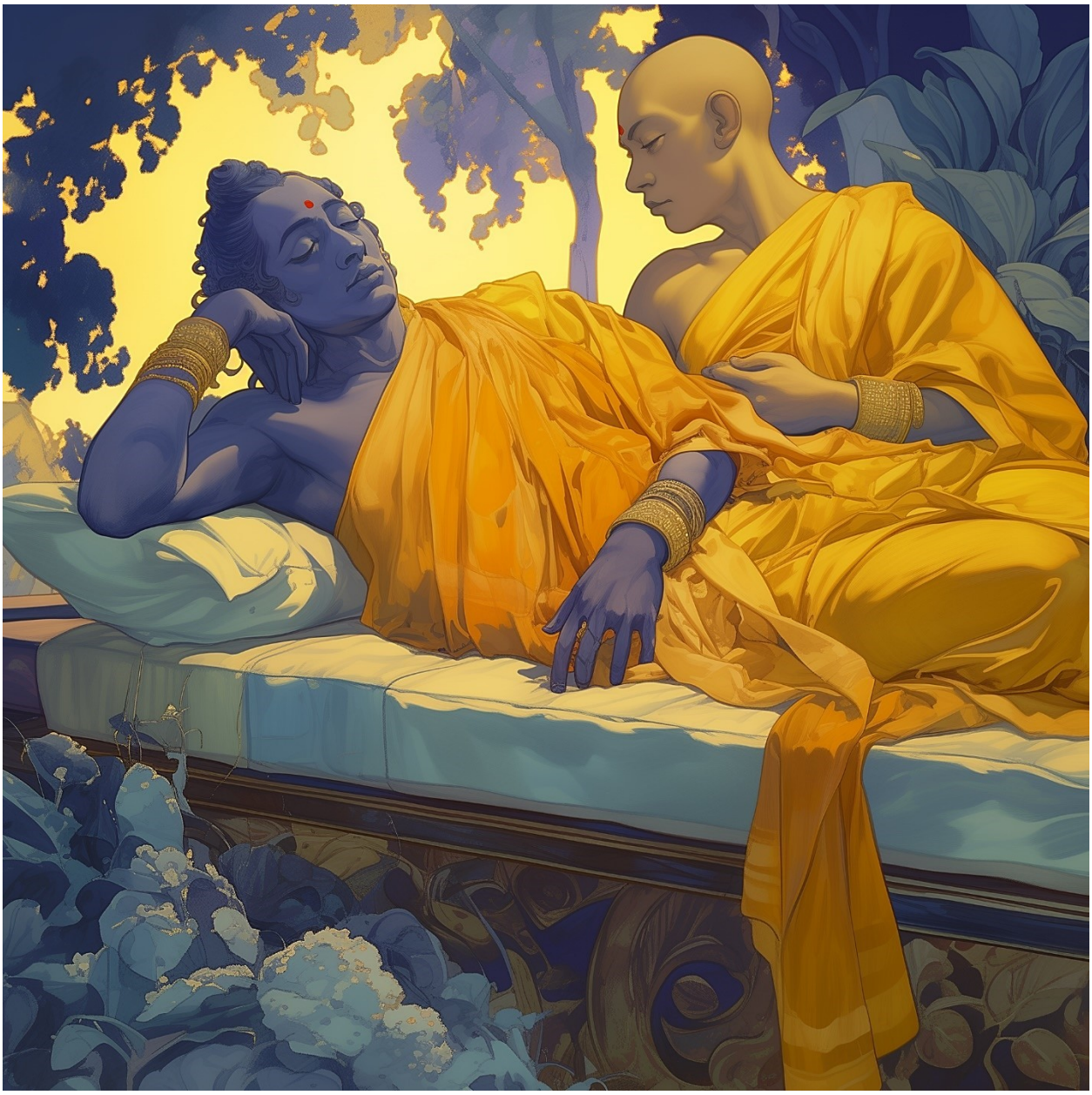
The Harrowing of Jesus Christ

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

Mary Magdalene and the Holy Grail

Siddhartha Gautama, the Shakyamuni Buddha

Siddhartha Gautama, the Shakyamuni Buddha



Buddha and Ananda

As Buddha lay dying, he said to his beloved disciple, “Be a lamp unto yourself. Be your own refuge. Never seek refuge in anything external. Hold fast to the Truth as a lamp. Hold fast to the Truth as a refuge.” His final words to his disciples were, “All compound things in the world are changeable. They are not lasting. Work hard to gain your own salvation.”

Budai the Laughing Buddha of China

Amitābha Buddha of the Pure Lands

Bhaiṣajyaguru Buddha (Medicine Buddha)

Maitreya the Future Buddha

Lao Tzu Writing the Tao Te Ching, the Foundational Text of Taoism

Confucius the Founder of Confucianism

Vishnu (“All-Pervasive”) the Hindu God of Compassion,
the Protector of Good, and the Bestower of Karma

Ganesh the Remover of Obstacles,
the Hindu God of Wisdom, New Beginnings, and Luck

Krishna and Putana

Prajnaparamita the Mother of All Buddhas

Avalokiteshvara the Bodhisattva of Compassion

Kuan Yin the Bodhisattva of Mercy

Tara the Bodhisattva of Wisdom and Kindness

Âu Cơ the Mother of Vietnamese Civilization

Selu the Corn Mother in Cherokee Lore, also known as Grandmother Maize

Grandmother Moon from Ojibwe Lore

Guru Nanak the Founder of Sikhism

Joseph Smith the Founder of Mormonism

The Báb, Founder of Bábism, the Precursor to the Bahá'í Faith

Bahá’u'lláh the Founder of the Bahá’í Faith

Maria Lionza the Modern-Era Venezuelan Goddess of Love and Nature

Saint Germain the Ascended Master and Keeper of the Sacred Violet Flame of Healing

L. Ron Hubbard the Founder of Scientology

Elvis Presley

Poetica Mortis

Meditation on Death

Today I will only see everyone as corpses
I will see them rotting
Or burned to ashes
Surrounded by soon-to-be skeletons

Today I will realize
All of my desires and toils and accomplishments
Will soon be buried or cremated
In the cosmic blink of an eye

All my friends and family
All the strangers in the streets
Even my spouse
Worm-infested and black with rot

Everything I care about
Will soon be forgotten
All the grudges and obsessions long gone
As if they never really were

Only the pain will remain
A hungry ghost
Haunting the universal expansion
Till all the lights go dark

Today I will only see life as death
I will see people as the scary monsters
They keep caged inside themselves
Selfish and violent
Feasting on the blood of their neighbors while
Preaching for peace
Hiding their claws and fangs
Behind brand-name clothes
And straightened, whitened annual checkups

Today I will only see everyone as zombies
Walking half-asleep
With faces twisted into nightmarish expressions
By decades of abuse to their bodies and minds
Scheming against one another
Consuming one another
Devouring the world in a thoughtless feeding frenzy

Every day is a fight to survive
Time is unraveling every stitch of your being
Every second of every minute of every hour
The universe is not simply indifferent to you
The cosmos is eradicating your presence
Blotting out the very memory of you
With ten trillion tons of new information
Per second

The Laws of Physics are out to get you
And Mother Nature rages against you
With floods and droughts and
Famines and plagues and
Hurricanes and tidal waves and tornadoes and
Earthquakes and volcanic eruptions
Screaming in your ear, yet you still feign deafness

Every precious creature only born to suffer and die
As butterflies spread their vivid wings
Impaled in glass display cases
Everything is already dead
But death is a manmade concept

Destruction on a cosmic scale stares back at you
Every time you look up at the night sky
The heavens are lying to you
Most of the stars have already burned out
And the rest will be snuffed soon enough
Our own sun is past its prime
And our home planet will be frozen lifeless someday
Kamikaze asteroids will collide with us long before then
The whole galaxy will eventually be swallowed
By a giant black hole

Today I will perceive so much death
That death itself will die
And be forgotten

Today I will remember what cannot be remembered
And give thanks to the invisible spirits guiding us

You Still Have 14,537 Bowel Movements to Go Before You're Done Here

What if I was able to predict the future,
and I knew things about you, things you
yourself didn't know? What if I knew you
were going to die in your mid-seventies?

To be precise, what if I knew your whole
life would amount to the sum of 27,301 days,
or about 3,900 weeks? What if I knew
you had 72 times left to make love
to your spouse? Or worse, what if I knew
you only had 10 times left? What if I knew
you will hug your child 46 more times
before parting ways forever? What if I knew
the last time you hugged your mom
was the last time you will ever hug her?

You only have so many times
to fight,
to cry,
to feel the beauty of sadness.

What if I knew 2,136 weeks of your time here will be
spent feeling bad in one way or another, and you'll
spend about 11,000 hours being sick? What if I knew
the last 16 days of your life will be a waking nightmare?
Should I tell you? Would you even want to know?
What would you do with such knowledge?

You only have so many times
to laugh,
to dance,
to dream of silver linings.

There are only so many words left in you.
Spend them wisely.

There are only so many books,
movies,
games,
rainbows,
occasions to hold someone's hand,
left in you.

This is a soup can sentiment
elevated to the level of high art.
You've heard these words
many times before,
sometimes issuing from your own mouth.
You know these words,
but sometimes knowing isn't enough.

The term YOLO should be less about
skydiving and bungee jumping,
and more about compassion and forgiveness.

The saddest thought in the world
is that you might never get another chance
to say I'm sorry
or…
I love you.

The Deities We Birth

Spirits are emotionally charged concepts
and their associated behaviors.

Spirits don't have their own bodies,
but they take possession of minds,
effectively giving them control of other people's bodies,
through which they take on a life of their own.

Far too many Christians pray to Jesus,
their embodiment of love and compassion,
while in their hearts they secretly
(and oftentimes unknowingly)
worship the spirit of hatred and death.

Your actions reflect who you really worship.
Every action is a form of worship,
subtly manifesting and reinforcing your beliefs.

Ponder this,
how many minutes throughout any given day
do you devote to love and compassion,
and how many minutes throughout any given day
are devoted to worshipping the god of greed and dishonesty,
or the goddess of lust,
or the spirit of strife?

J. Martin Strangeweather is one of the world's foremost authorities on death and dying. Holding degrees in philosophy, rhetoric, and art history, he draws on extensive studies across historical, theological, philosophical, anthropological, psychological, medical, and scientific literature concerned with aging, death, near-death experiences, end-of-life care, the grieving process, and funerary practices around the globe. As the originator of the eidetic afterlife hypothesis, he has been described as a modern-day psychopomp. A psychopomp, in classical mythology and spirituality, is any figure who guides souls to the land of the dead. By detailing the psychological, phenomenological, and neurophysiological mechanics underlying such near-death phenomena as temporal dilation, out-of-body experiences, panoramic life reviews, reunions with the deceased, feelings of universal oneness, and encounters with divine light, the eidetic afterlife hypothesis effectively maps out the mysterious experience of dying. Strangeweather's lifelong pursuit of thanatological knowledge has taken him to the Great Pyramid of Giza in Egypt, the Potala Palace in Tibet, Machu Picchu in Peru, Angkor Wat in Cambodia, Borobudur in Indonesia, Mount Uluru in Australia, the Temple of Apollo in Delphi, Greece, Stonehenge in England on Mayday, the bone-lined catacombs beneath Paris, France, the Sistine Chapel in Vatican City, Jerusalem in Israel, and the burning ghats along the Ganges River in Varanasi, India, as well as U.C. Irvine's Willed Body Donor Program morgue and crematorium, where he studied contemporary funerary practices firsthand.